



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

Tose Proeski and USAID Together for Macedonian Schools

USAID's new Primary Education Project, a five-year initiative targeted toward all public primary schools in Macedonia, is embarking on a National Information Tour starting on March 12, 2007. The tour will last until March 29 and will visit schools and make presentations in eight cities throughout the country: Skopje, Tetovo, Ohrid, Bitola, Kavadarci, Strumica, Kocani and Kumanovo.

"We want to speak directly to our clients and partners throughout Macedonia to inform them of our plans to assist the Ministry of Education and Science to develop a quality primary education service that will foster economic growth and stability in Macedonia. We will also inform school directors and mayors about how they can apply for USAID funds for renovating buildings and improving classrooms to stimulate learning and creativity," said Dr. Keith Prenton, the Chief of Party of the USAID Primary Education Project.

During the tour, specialists will undertake a needs-analysis survey in each of the regions surrounding the eight cities, and there will be three additional activities:

1. A presentation of the Project activities to school directors, education advisors, and teachers;
2. Fact-finding visits to selected schools; and
3. An evening reception and presentation for mayors and officials.

During the visits to schools, students will attend presentations by their peers--USAID young representatives from Macedonian secondary schools who will speak about the mission and role of USAID in Macedonia. Representatives from the NGO 'OXO' will also present USAID's message about energy efficiency, and in several schools Macedonian pop star and special PEP partner, Tose Proeski, will convey PEP's main message about the importance of education and the fact that education is everybody's concern.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 25 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>